JAN 0 9 2004 B

PATENT Attorney Docket No. 23632-002

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

Chen et al.

CONFIRMATION NO.:

3675

SERIAL NUMBER:

09/461,336

**EXAMINER:** 

Bryan J. Jaketic

FILING DATE:

December 15, 1999

ART UNIT:

3627

FOR:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REDUCING EXCESS CAPACITY FOR RESTAURANTS

AND OTHER INDUSTRIES DURING OFF-PEAK OR OTHER TIMES

## **REPLY UNDER 37 C. F. R. § 1.116**

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 JAN 1 4 2004 GROUP 3600

Sir:

This is a response to a final Office Action mailed September 9, 2003 (Paper No. 17).

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 27 of this paper.

It is believed that a one-month extension is required. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0311 (Reference No. 23632-002).